

**John Bel  
EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR-ELECT

December 21, 2015

Mr. Bill Ludwig  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
USDA – Food and Nutrition Service  
1100 Commerce St., Room 522  
Dallas, Texas 75214

Via email [William.Ludwig@fns.usda.gov](mailto:William.Ludwig@fns.usda.gov)

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – ABAWD waiver for Fiscal Year 2016


Dear Mr. Ludwig:

As you may know, I will be sworn into office as Governor of Louisiana on January 11, 2016. It is my intention, once in office, to extend the ABAWD waiver statewide for Fiscal Year 2016. This extension is based on the FNS regulations which allow for a waiver if the unemployment rate is high enough to meet the criteria for extended benefits under the unemployment insurance program. Per Trigger Notice No. 2015-3 effective February 1, 2015, Louisiana is a qualifying state for this program.

Since the current administration has not extended the waiver and the benefits will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, I request that your department work with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that there is no gap in benefits until the waiver can be formally extended after I take office. I am willing to work with your office and DCFS to ensure these benefits are not cut off on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I have further informed DCFS of my intentions and have requested that they cooperate with your department to ensure the benefits are continued.

If you need any further information or assistance, please contact Matthew Block ([matthewblock@onwardlouisiana.com](mailto:matthewblock@onwardlouisiana.com)) or Julie Baxter Payer ([juliepayer@onwardlouisiana.org](mailto:juliepayer@onwardlouisiana.org)).

Sincerely,

  
John Bel Edwards  
Governor-elect  
State of Louisiana